



# Pamyat Naroda

## “How to” Guide, Intermediate Level: Instruction

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### GOAL

This guide will teach you how to use the Russian WWII Database, Pamyat Naroda.

### INTRODUCTION

Память Народа (*Pamyat Naroda*), or the “Memory of the People” database seeks to obtain and publish the most complete information about the Russian participants in WWII (often referred to as the Great Patriotic War in Russia). The database includes indexes and images of WWII documents such as submissions for awards, hospital and death records, and historic photographs as well as interactive tools such as combat and war path maps and a personal archive. This website is in Russian but does have a partial English interface.

For best results, use the Google Chrome browser when using the Pamyat Naroda website.

### HOW TO

1. Go to [pamyat-naroda.ru](http://pamyat-naroda.ru).
2. The website will appear in Russian. Click on **En** on the top right corner of the page. Note that this option will only translate portions of the page. To get a full English translation, use the Google Chrome browser. Right click anywhere on the page and select the option **Translate to English**.
3. To search for an ancestor that served in WWII, click on the **Heroes** tab at the top of the page. You can also use the search box on the main page; however, when using the English option on the website, this page does not translate into English.
4. Click on **Specify** next to the search box at the top of the screen.
5. Surnames, given names, and patronymics will need to be entered in the Cyrillic alphabet. To type in Russian, click on the keyboard icon that appears in the search box or try using an online keyboard such as [russian.typeit.org/](http://russian.typeit.org/). If you do not know how your ancestor’s name(s) was written in Russian, try using Steve Morse’s *Transliterating English to Russian in One Step* found at [stevemorse.org/russian/eng2rus.html](http://stevemorse.org/russian/eng2rus.html). Transliterations can be copied and pasted into the search boxes at Pamyat Naroda.
6. You can also search using other identifying information such as date of birth/death, awards, etc. Some headings or search boxes remain in Russian even in the English

interface. Use Google Translate to help you or scroll down to the bottom of a page where you will find a sample search with English translations of the search boxes. Remember, you'll need to input any names or places in Cyrillic. If you are inputting a region, you'll need to put the region in adjectival form. In most cases, you'll add a *ская* to the end of the name of the region to get the adjectival form. For example, if your ancestor was born in the Kiev Oblast (region), you'll need to use *Киевская* rather than *Киев*. Using *Киев* will only search for the city of Kiev and not the region.

7. Once you have entered your search terms, click on the red **Search** button.
8. The search results will be displayed. The default is set to display all results, but you can also narrow your search results by category using the tab at the top of the screen. Click on a category to add or remove it from the search. The box on the right-hand side of the screen also allows you to filter your search. For best results, keep all options on their default search settings.
9. Entries appear in boxes with the name of the soldier underlined in blue. The names will be written in Russian. To see a transliterated version of the name, right click anywhere on the page and select the option **Translate to English**. Beneath the name, you may find information such as date of birth, place of conscription, date of death or disappearance, etc. This information will help you determine which result is the right one. The box also contains information about how many documents (if any) are linked to this particular person.
10. To view more details about a particular entry, click on the name of the soldier underlined in blue. Keep in mind there may be more than one entry associated with the same soldier.
11. You will be brought to the individual's page where you will find information and see documents related to them. The page consists of a column on the left side where you can see a timeline of important events and documents and a viewing area on the right side. If you click on an event in the timeline, it will show you a corresponding document in the viewing area. If the individual received an award, you'll find an image of the medal received and/or a document in the viewing area associated with that award.
12. The viewing area has a tab bar at the top with various sections: **Сводная информация (Summary Information)**, **Документы (Documents)**, **Боевой путь (Combat Path)**, and **Дополнительная информация (Additional Information)**. See the headings below for more information on each section.

**Сводная информация (Summary Information** – may also be translated as **Free Information**)

- The summary information tab contains details about the individual such as date and place of birth, place and date of recruitment, military rank/unit, awards received, or a photo (if available).

## Документы (Documents)

- Use the timeline on the left-hand side of the page to select an event or a medal. If a document associated with that event or reward is available online, it will appear under the documents tab. If a document is not available online, the page will mention the archive that it is stored in along with the archival information.
- There are various documents you might encounter including conscription, registration and service card files, military service, POW, hospital and death records, burial lists, memory books, submissions for awards and more!
- Documents will most likely be written in Russian. For help reading documents written in Russian see the [Russian Alphabet](#) and [Deciphering the Handwriting](#) “How to” Guides. Also consider using the Russian Empire Genealogy Group on the [FamilySearch Community](#) to assist with translations.

## Боевой путь (Combat Path)

- This option shows an interactive map where you can see where your ancestor was born, where they were called up, and where exactly they served in the war and which battles/hostilities they participated in them. To learn more about each battle, see the combat log. The map also shows awards and medals received, and if the ancestor died during the war, details about death and/or burial will also be displayed. Note that the combat path may not be available for all individuals.

## Дополнительная информация (Additional Information)

- This section may contain additional information about your ancestor.

## PRACTICE

Let's practice by searching for WWII records for Alexander Sergeevich Ivanov who was born in 1923 in the Rostov Oblast. He died during the war.

1. Go to [pamyat-naroda.ru](http://pamyat-naroda.ru) and change the settings to English by clicking on **En** in the upper right-hand corner.
2. Click on the **Heroes** tab at the top of the page. From the **Heroes** page, click on **Specify** next to the red search button.
3. Remember, you will need to enter your search terms in Cyrillic. If you do not speak Russian, try using Steve Morse's *Transliterating English to Russian in One Step* found at [stevemorse.org/russian/eng2rus.html](http://stevemorse.org/russian/eng2rus.html). This site will give you several variations on how the name might be transliterated into Russian. Keep in mind you may have to try several variations before you find the proper spelling. Alexander's name is spelled **Александр Сергеевич Иванов**.
4. Add his year of birth (1923) and place of birth. Alexander was born in the Rostov Oblast. An easy way to determine how this is spelled (and the adjectival form) in Russian is to

simply locate the Wikipedia page for the oblast you are looking for. Once you have located the Wikipedia page, scroll down until you find the **Languages** section in the left side bar. Click on the **Русский** option. This will take you to the Russian language version of this Wiki page. The title of the page will contain the adjectival form of the oblast name followed by the Russian word for oblast, Область. In this case, the adjectival form of Rostov is Ростовская. Copy and paste this into the birth-place box at Pamyat Naroda.

5. After you have added your search terms, click the red **Search** button.
6. Search results will appear in Russian, so to aid you in reading, right click anywhere on the page and select the option **Translate to English**.
7. There is one result for an Ivanov Alexander Sergeevich. He was born 1923 and was killed 23 September 1943. This matches the information we were looking for. Click on his blue hyperlinked name to see more information.
8. His page will appear in Russian, so right-click anywhere on the page and select the option **Translate to English**.
9. The page automatically takes us to the **Summary Information** (may be translated as **Free Information**) section of the page. On this page, you'll find a photograph along with details such as an exact date and place of birth, conscription date and place, military rank, unit, and awards. Note that we find a full date of birth and place of birth.
10. Now click on the **Documentation** tab. Alexander is mentioned in five documents. Use the document timeline on the left to explore the documents.
  - The first are categorized as personnel information documents. They are not available online but are located at ЦАМО.
  - The next two documents are award documents. The document relating to the Medal for Military Merit is available online.
  - The last document is a loss report. The document is available online. The index tells us he was killed 23 September 1943 and was buried near Roshinsky Skitok in the Chernihiv region of Ukraine.
11. Now take a look at the **Combat Path**. The red cross on the map shows his burial location.

## ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this "How to" Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you've mastered the Guide! Click [here to try out the Activity](#).